Tar Heel Youths Operate Soda Pop Co-op

See story, page 10

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August 1987

Cookbook Project Raises Money For Scholarship Fund

The recipe reprinted here is from *Co-op Cooking*, a cookbook featuring recipes from cooks representing various electric co-ops across North Carolina.

The recipes were submitted by employees and volunteers at Electric Membership Corporations throughout the state.

The book, which was published by the Women's Advisory Committee of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC), includes household hints, equivalents, substitutes, diet and metric system information.

Copies from its second printing are still available through NCAEC or local EMC offices.

Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will support the Women's Committee's Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship. The $1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a high school student who participated in the previous year's Youth Tour to Washington, an educational program sponsored by NCAEC.

The scholarship bears the name of an Ashe County man who was instrumental in guiding the development of the rural electric program in its early years.

The book sells for $5.95 each when purchased through the EMCs. When they're ordered by mail, orders must include an additional $1.25 for mailing and handling.

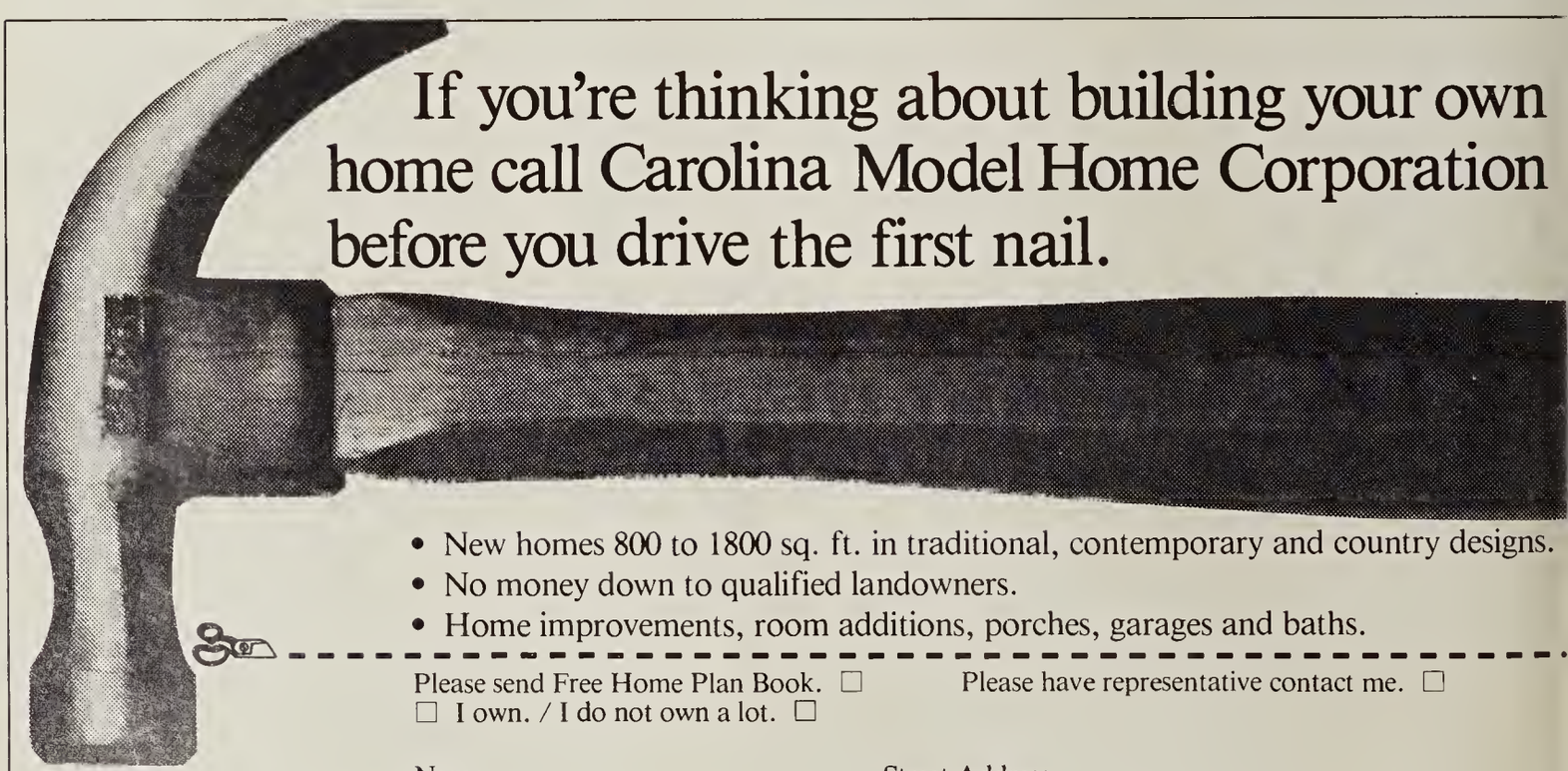
Mail orders should be sent to: Co-op Cooking, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Potato Casserole

Mary Stutts
Davidson EMC, Lexington

3 C. grated red raw potatoes
1/2 stick margarine
3/4 C. grated, medium sharp Cheddar cheese
1 C. sour cream
3 Tbsp. chopped green onions
Salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in saucepan and mix in cheese, sour cream and onions. Add potatoes. Stir quickly together. Pour in baking dish and bake at 350°, 45 minutes.



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VIEWPOINT

Farmers: They're Not Expendable

Although a recent survey found that 60 percent of Tar Heel farmers feel they have no future in agriculture, many cling to the land by taking jobs off the farm to supplement their incomes.

A fourth of the farmers in the survey, conducted by NCSU Agricultural Extension Sociologist Stephen C. Lilley, had worked at least 200 days off the farm last year.

Tar Heel farmers, like others, have been hurt by low market prices, depressed land values and high debt, as well as by weather.

Last year's severe North Carolina drought bred additional pessimism.

The rate of failed farms and bankruptcies, though down this year, remains high.

Prairiefire, an Iowa-based rural advocacy group, reports that in the year ending with June, 1986, 387 farms were lost each day, and prices paid to farmers dropped 5.5 percent.

The federal government's support payments, which guarantee farmers a specific price for their crops, rose from $4 billion in 1981 to $25.8 billion in 1986, as market prices plunged while production remained high.

"Do we want to rely on imports—or on ever-bigger "corporate farming" operations that trade flavor and variety for efficiency and put hard, tasteless tomatoes and cardboard-tough chickens on our tables?"

At the Venice economic summit, President Reagan called for a worldwide end to agricultural subsidies by the year 2000, saying farm subsidies in most nations have distorted global agricultural trade and caused a worldwide glut of farm products and depressed commodity prices—all at taxpayer expense.

Economic experts say that if subsidies end, consumers likely would pay more for their food as farm commodity prices rose, but would benefit in the long run from the declining cost to them as taxpayers. That argument is untested.

In a free-market world, some commodities could undoubtedly be produced cheaper elsewhere. Still more American farmers would have to find another line of work.

If 60 percent of Tar Heel farmers abandon agriculture for other jobs, North Carolina will face a real crisis. Somebody has to raise the grains, vegetables and fruit, the poultry, pork and beef we eat.

Do we want to rely on imports—or on ever-bigger "corporate farming" operations that trade flavor and variety for efficiency and put hard, tasteless tomatoes and cardboard-tough chickens on our tables?

Like everybody else, North Carolinians need farmers, and farmers need help. Tough as it is to resolve, the farm crisis can't be ignored or solved by driving all our farmers off the farm and into the cities.

—*The Raleigh Times*

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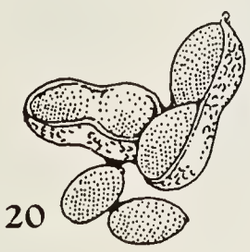

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Peanut Drying Techniques Spotlighted

Farmers attending the Peanut Field Day to be held Sept. 10 at Lewiston Peanut Belt Research Station in Lewiston, will have a chance to learn about better peanut drying practices which can result in increased profits through lower energy costs.

Representatives of the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation (AEC) will attend Peanut Field Day to promote a 22-month project being conducted with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI&SU), to identify money-saving opportunities relative to the use of energy.

The project, which began in July, 1986, will continue into 1988 and will seek both maintenance and low-cost retrofit opportunities to cut energy costs. AEC officials consider this a significant undertaking because every 10 percent reduction in drying costs will increase profits for farmers by about 3 percent.

According to Ziba Kellum, AEC project engineer, "Costs of energy—both propane and electrical—are continuing to rise, making proper and efficient peanut drying a more important factor in peanut profits."

Recent energy evaluations on conventional solar and recirculating peanut drying systems have indicated that many fan systems deliver only 80 to 90 percent of their design airflow. As a result, many fans do not provide the minimum 10-cubic-feet-per-minute of air required per cubic foot of peanuts. Air leaks or holes in ducts and trailers can cause even greater reduction in air delivery.

Properly-sized fans may operate with 10 to 20 percent more drying efficiency than those sized improperly. Good maintenance and operation of drying systems also will conserve electricity and LP gas, as well as improve peanut quality.

Static pressure field tests have revealed that airflow to trailers used in peanut drying is quite variable. Variations in airflow to trailers result in corresponding variations in drying rate and increase the drying time for some trailers.

"The main focus of the current project is identifying ways to maintain balanced and even airflows at proper temperatures during peanut drying to insure a quality product, while using the least energy possible," Kellum said. "Quality is always a concern, and proper drying can have a positive impact on quality, by not over-drying or under-drying."

Peanut dryer field tests to be conducted this year will gather data on fan performance and air distribution to peanut trailers for drying equipment currently in use. Additional testing will be done to evaluate low cost dryer modifications to improve performance and reduce drying costs.

Equipment designed and built for the project is now being calibrated at VPI&SU in preparation for field tests this summer.

Eight "resistance plates" for simulating the resistance of peanut-laden trailers have been built, so that continued testing of the drying system can be conducted during the "off" season when it will not interfere with harvest operations.

Kellum said AEC representatives will be meeting with peanut drying operators in several North Carolina counties to make them aware of the project, and to discuss effective ways for disseminating project information as it becomes available.

A technical bulletin on the project and findings will be available in 1988 on request from Ziba Kellum, Project Engineer, AEC, PO Box 12699, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

AEC is an independent, nonprofit corporation established by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and the state's electric utility organizations to promote efficient production and consumption of electricity.

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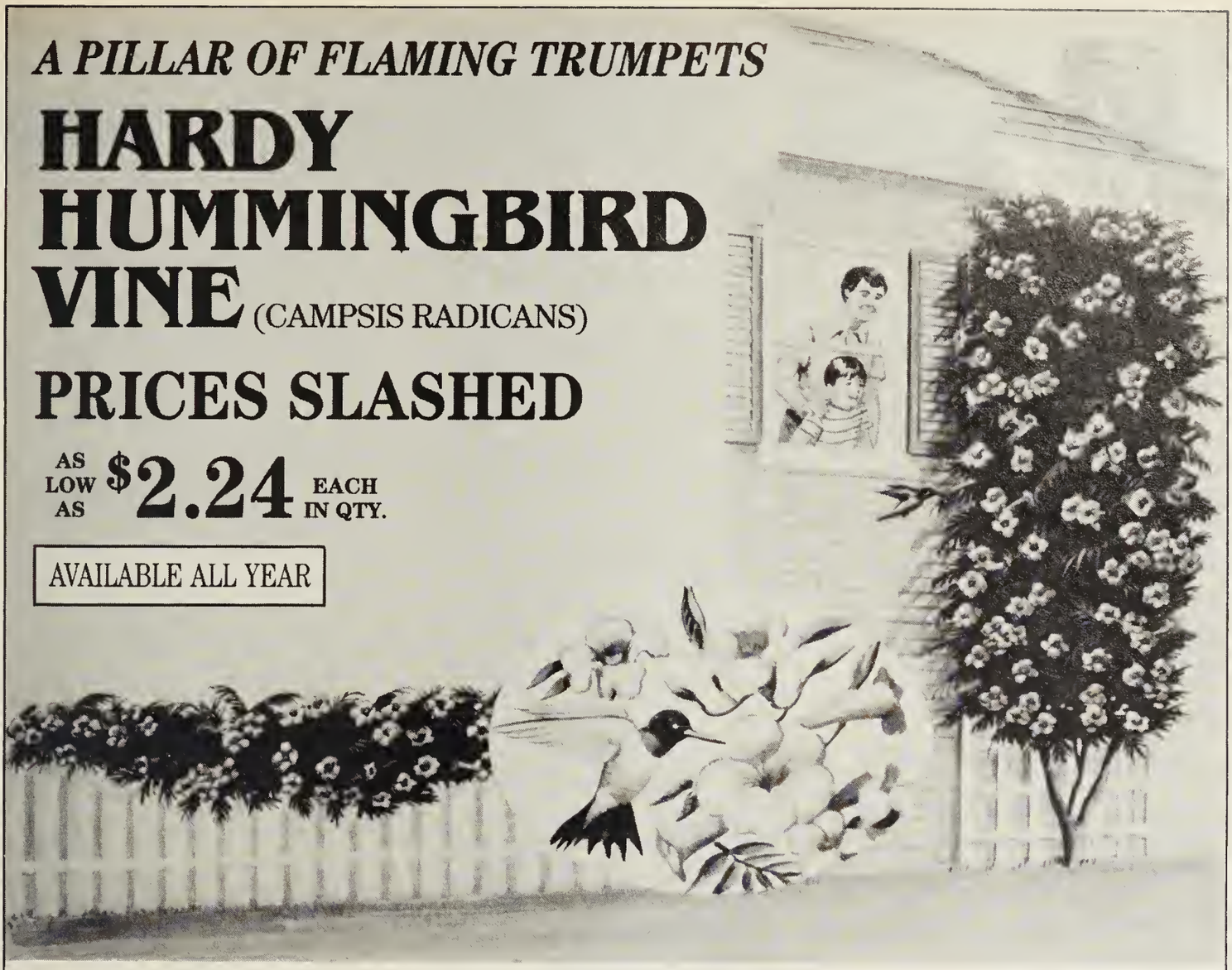

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Preservation Foundation Receives Regional Award

The National Park Service has presented its 1987 Southeast Regional Preservation Award to the **Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc.** The award praised the foundation for its leadership in preservation activities and involvement in local and statewide efforts to preserve this state's heritage.

The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. is the state's only private, non-profit, statewide membership organization in historic preservation.

It provides educational opportunities and public recognition to individuals and groups working to preserve tangible evidence of North Carolina's history. Its revolving fund purchases endangered historic properties throughout the state for resale under protective covenants.

Wildlife Festival Set In Currituck County

The Sixth Annual Currituck Wildlife Festival, sponsored by the Currituck Wildlife Guild, will be held Sept. 19-20 at the Currituck County High School, Barco.

Activities will include duck and goose calling competitions and the World Swan Calling competition. Displays will include old decoys and artifacts.

Proceeds from the event will be used to build a Wildlife Museum in Currituck County.

For additional information, write or call the Currituck Wildlife Guild. P.O. Box 91, Shawboro, NC 27923. Phone: (919) 336-2787.

Indian Summer Festival Scheduled In Hertford

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will host the 1987 Indian Summer Festival, Sept. 11-12, in Hertford. The festival will feature arts and crafts, antique displays, outside dancing and entertainment and food.

For more information, write or call Mary Harrell at the chamber office, P.O. Box 27, Hertford, NC 27944. Phone: (919) 426-5657.

Military Mail Call Commends Tar Heels For 1986 Efforts

Six North Carolina organizations and individuals have been singled out for a special commendation from officials of Military Mail Call for outstanding participation in the national program last year.

They are: Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Post #63, Eden; Louise L. Strickland of Woodland; Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh; Keyettes of Lejeune High School in Camp Lejeune; Mary Colin Rankin of Lees McRae College in Banner Elk and Air Force JROTC of Surry Central High School, Dobson.

Mail received from organizations and individuals across the country in 1986 was sorted by Mail Call into more than 700 bundles and distributed to members of the armed forces around the world.

For information about how to participate in the program, send a stamped self-addressed envelope (business-size if possible) to: Military Mail Call, Box 9629, Norfolk, VA 23505-0629.

Gate City Hosts Antique Gun and Civil War Show

The Col. John Sloan Camp, #1290, of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans is sponsoring the Fourth Annual Carolina Antique Only Gun and Civil War Show at the Holiday Inn Airport, Greensboro, Sept. 26-27.

Displays of locally-made Kentucky rifles, Confederate swords and Civil War rifles, all made before 1898, will be featured at the show. In addition, Civil War art and many related items will be for sale.

Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase Guilford County Historical Markers.

Admission is $3 for adults and $1.50 for children under 12. For more information, write or call Michael Briggs at 251 N. Greene St., Greensboro, NC 22401. Phone: (919) 274-4758—Monday through Friday during business hours.

Natural Science Museum Accredited

The N.C. Museum of Natural Science has been awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

Accreditation certifies that a museum operates according to standards set forth by the museum profession, manages its collections responsibly and provides superior service to the public. Of nearly 5,000 museums nationwide, only 650 have been accredited.

Book Sale Set For Sept. 26 In Boone

The Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Inc., will hold its Third Annual Book Sale Sept. 26 in the Powderhorn Building located at Boone's *Horn In The West* parking lot.

More than 3,000 titles, ranging in price from 10 cents to $1 will be available. The Book Sale is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In addition, the Watauga County Farmers Market will be operating that day at the same location. Fresh produce, homemade baked goods, canned goods and quality crafts are available.

For more information write or call Mary Smalling, Hickory Ridge Homestead, P.O. Box 295, Boone, NC 28607. Phone: (704) 264-2120.

French Broad River Week Slated For Sept. 5-13

The 11th Annual French Broad River Week, co-sponsored by the Land-of-Sky Regional Council and the

French Broad River Foundation, has been scheduled for Sept. 5-13.

A variety of events are being planned throughout the four-county river basin (Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe and Madison), including river clean-ups, canoe and raft trips, library and mall displays, riverside hikes, a midweek evening River celebration and many others.

The highlight of the week will be the Fourth Annual French Broad Riverfest, Sept. 2-13. Riverfest '87 will feature two full days of free entertainment, rides on an 1830 steam locomotive, raft and canoe rides and races, an art show, craft and educational displays, food and a Saturday night street dance with fireworks.

For more information, call Bill Eaker at (704) 254-8131 or Peter Gregutt at (704) 252-1097, or write to Eaker at Land-of-Sky Regional Council, 25 Heritage Drive, Asheville, NC 28806.

Handcrafters Fair Set In Greensboro

Craftsmen from 11 Piedmont counties will participate in the 1987 Piedmont Handcrafters Fair at Greensboro's Four Seasons Mall, Aug. 28-30.

The event is sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service and the Northern Piedmont Area Development Association.

For more information, write or call Jane L. Ebert, Agricultural Extension Service, 301 E. Center St., Lexington, NC 27292. Phone: (704) 249-7011.

Cover: Viceroy Butterfly

Our cover this month—showing a viceroy butterfly amid ivy leaves—was shot by Judy Hubers of Rt. 1, Pantego. She and her family are consumer-members of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation, Pantego.

Exposition To Include Crop Demonstrations

The *Carolina Farmer* Exposition, featuring exhibits and field demonstrations showing the latest in farming techniques and technology, is scheduled for Sept. 11-13 at Oakland Grove Farm near Greenville.

About 450 acres of land at the farm have been allocated for demonstration crop production for the show.

The exposition itself will showcase agribusinesses, agri-services, lawn and garden attractions and recreational equipment. An amusement park will be set up for children.

In addition, a career day program for high school students has been scheduled for Sept. 9-10 in connection with the exposition.

For more information, write or call Blake Lewis Jr., Carolina Farmer, P.O. Box 7344, Greenville, NC 27835-7344. Phone: 800-843-0799, toll-free.

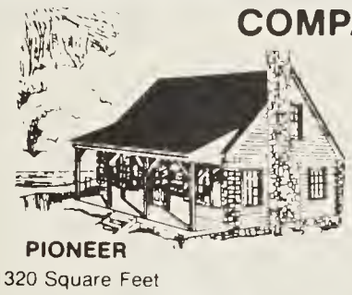
"Chair Fair" Slated In Lenoir Sept. 26

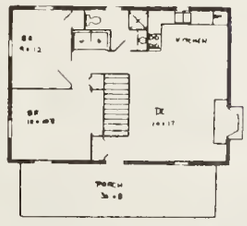
The "Chair Fair," an outdoor festival, is scheduled for Sept. 26 in Lenoir as part of the Caldwell Arts Council's 10th Annual Caldwell Fall Festival.

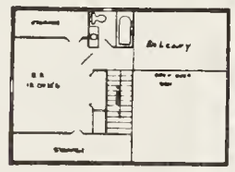
Events will begin at 9 a.m. with a 10,000-meter run, one-mile fun run, juried arts and folk art, international foods, children's games and activities and a community supper. A fireworks finale is slated for 9 p.m.

Continued on page 8

COMPARE







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Continued from page 7

Also planned are professional competitions for chair-related art work in two-dimensional and three-dimensional categories.

For more information, write or call the Caldwell Arts Council, 601 College Ave., SW, Lenoir, NC 28645. Phone: (704) 754-2486.

Art From Black Mountain College At N.C. Museum

An exhibition of works created from 1933 to 1957 by faculty and students of Black Mountain College will be featured at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh through Oct. 4.

The college was a liberal arts institution which focused on art as central to the educational experience.

The exhibit includes works in a variety of media by such artists as Josef Albers, Franz Kline, Robert Motherwell, Kenneth Noland and Robert Rauschenberg.

For more information, write or call the museum at 2110 Blue Ridge Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27607. Phone: (919) 833-1935.

Newsletter Examines State Economic Trends

The Bureau of Economic and Business Research at Appalachian State University's Walker College of Business is publishing a new *Economic Quarterly* newsletter, which covers state economic trends and offers forecasts for major state economic indicators.

For information on how to subscribe to the newsletter, write or call Dr. Rick Kirkpatrick, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Walker College of Business Annex, Boone, NC 28608.

New Handbook Outlines Rights of Handicapped

The U.S. Department of Education is offering a new handbook that outlines the rights of handicapped people under a civil rights law.

The 14-page pamphlet, "Handicapped Persons' Rights Under Federal Law," spells out the rights of the handicapped under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

It includes the addresses and telephone numbers of 10 regional civil rights offices where people can file discrimination complaints.

A free copy of the handbook in English or Spanish is available by calling (202) 732-2075 or writing: Fred Tate, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 330 C St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

Labor Day Festival Scheduled In Elkin

Elkin's Labor Day Festival 1987 will feature free train rides on a replica of the first passenger train in the country, the "Best Friend of Charleston."

Other events will include an anything-that-floats "Fun Float" on the Yadkin River, a display of a Junior Johnson race car, a magic show and crafts demonstrations.

The festival is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Labor Day, Sept. 7, at Elkin's Municipal Park.

For more information, write or call Linda Brown at P.O. Box 24, Elkin, NC 28621. Phone: (919) 526-6020.

Home Folks

John Roebuck, a visually impaired teacher at Gov. Morehead School in Raleigh, has been named North Carolina's Handicapped Citizen of the Year for 1987. He will now represent the state in a competition for national honors ..... The late **John W. Sledge,** who headed the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation from 1974 until his death in 1985, has been enshrined in the N.C. Agricultural Hall of Fame ..... **George B. Blum Jr.,** professor and undergraduate coordinator in biological and agricultural engineering at NCSU, was one of seven recipients of Teacher Fellow Awards from the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. In addition, **Dr. Lynn G. Turner,** associate professor of food science at NCSU, received the association's 1987 Outstanding Teacher Award for the Southern Region ..... The late **Jacob F. Alexander Jr.,** who served as Deputy Secretary of the N.C. Department of Transportation until his death in March, has been honored by the State Board of Transportation. The board renamed Salisbury Boulevard in Salisbury—Alexander's hometown—Jake Alexander Boulevard ..... **Dr. Harold E. Swaisgood** and **Dr. Kenneth R. Butcher,** both professors at N.C. State University, have been honored for their contributions to the dairy industry by the American Dairy Science Association. Swaisgood received the Borden Award for his research work. Butcher received the 1987 National Dairy Herd Improvement Association Award for his contributions to dairy herd improvement ..... **Rep. Joe Hackney** (D-Orange) has been cited as the Consumer Advocate of the Year by the North Carolina Consumers Council. He was recognized for his work in support of various pieces of legislation, including phosphate detergent clean-up, comparative fault insurance, credit card interest rate reduction, private auto insurance changes and AIDS prevention education.

Supermarket Ads Hail "Goodness Grows" Program

People all across North Carolina are becoming better acquainted with the distinctive "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" logo through the weekly advertisements of the Big Star supermarket chain, as the grocery outlet promotes quality products grown in North Carolina.

The emblem, which now may be used by more than 50 food processors in North Carolina, is prominently featured in the newspaper ads.

One full year after the program was launched by the Marketing Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA), both the concept and the emblem are becoming familiar to Tar Heel consumers.

Meanwhile, the program's officials have just announced its first recipient of the Commissioner's Award, which is given for consistent promotion of the "Goodness Grows" concept.

It was presented to Tony Golding of Golding Farms at Winston-Salem, one of the original cooperators who joined the program at its inception. Golding Farms produces honey, chow-chow (pepper relish) and barbecue sauce.

Participation in the program is free for producers, but they must meet two requirements:

- The product or products must be made from North Carolina ingredients, at least 51 percent.
- The products must be top quality. If a company produces several product lines, such as "good, better and best," only the "best" category qualifies.

"This means that when you see the 'Goodness Grows' emblem on food, you can be assured it's a top quality, premium product," says Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham.

Anyone wishing to can obtain details on enrollment by writing:

Goodness Grows in North Carolina, Division of Marketing, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Post Office Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Or they may call Mrs. Theresa Hamby, coordinator, at (919) 733-7912.

Once a product is approved by technical specialists in the Department of Agriculture, the producer is eligible to use the distinctive emblem.

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Soda Pop Co-op: "On-The-Job" Experience For Tar Heel Youths

ABOVE TOP—The "representative" from Wilkes County grins for a photographer during a pause in his schedule. He's Eric Livingston of Rt. 1, Boomer, who borrowed the desk of Rep. Steve Neal briefly when the North Carolina Rural Electric Youth Tourists visited the congressman's office. ABOVE—Eric Livingston and three fellow tourists chat with Rob Wrigley, administrative assistant to Rep. Neal. Left to right are: Shelia Hale of Rt. 1, Jefferson; Cheryl Beaver of Rt. 4, Taylorsville, Lisa Truitt of Sparta, Livingston and Wrigley.

When Mary Alicia Lyons of Whiteville was selected to participate in this year's Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, she never imagined that she'd get "on-the-job" experience in co-op management during the trip.

She picked up that experience while serving as the $1-per-day manager of a "soda-pop co-op" that the tourists organized to provide canned soft drinks for the group of 33 Tar Heel high school students.

The job proved to be quite "educational" for her, she said.

"I got my first hands-on experience in running a co-op and dealing with customers."

Miss Lyons, who was sponsored on the tour by Brunswick EMC, Shallotte, was assisted in running the co-op by Tim Kennely of Rt. 1, Macclesfield, who represented Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tarboro.

Miss Lyons named Kennely assistant manager—at a salary of 75 cents per day—after she was appointed to the manager's post by a five-member Board of Directors for the co-op. (See box.)

The directors were elected by the tour group during an orientation session in Raleigh prior to departing for Washington.

The "soda-pop co-op" was organized to give the Youth Tour participants an opportunity to learn how co-ops operate from their own personal experience—while also providing the North Carolina group with affordable soft drinks.

After reviewing the cost of labor and the drinks—which were supplied by the Pepsi Bottling Company of Raleigh at wholesale prices—the co-op's board set its price at 40 cents per 12-ounce can. The price for such drinks in Washington is 75 cents.

In keeping with the traditional principles of co-op operations, the board agreed that after covering all operating costs, margins remaining at week's end would be refunded to the members along with their membership fees.

During the week-long trip, the Lyons/Kennely management team oversaw all arrangements for keeping the drinks cold and in adequate supply on the group's chartered bus and at its motel. They also handled all sales and sales records.

When the co-op was dissolved at the end of the trip, each tourist/member received a refund from margins amounting to 6 cents per can.

The annual Rural Electric Youth Tour is an educational program for North Carolina high school students coordinated by the statewide organization of EMCs.

Participants selected by the EMCs through various competitions visit attractions in Washington and meet with members of the North Carolina congressional delegation.

They also join about 1,000 youths from other states in programs on electric co-ops and in recreational events.

For information about competitions to select participants in the 1988 tour, contact your local EMC or write to Ms. Lorrie Constantinos, N.C. AEC, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

North Carolina Youth Tourists offer sad farewells to one another upon their return to Raleigh on their way back home.

Five Students Elected To The Board Of Tour's Soda Pop Co-op

Five students representing four of North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations were elected to the Board of Directors of the Youth Tour "soda-pop co-op."

They were: William Summey of Dallas, who represented Rutherford EMC, Forest City; Cindy Garner of Rt. 2, Denton, who represented Davidson EMC, Lexington; Nikos Vamvaketis of Lake Waccamaw, who represented Brunswick EMC, Shallotte; and two students who represented Four County EMC, Burgaw: Jenny Register of Rt. 1, White Oak and Ricky Simpson of Rt. 2, Garland.

Ashe County Student Appointed To National Co-op Youth Board

An Ashe County high school student has been selected as North Carolina's representative on the Youth Consulting Board of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Shelia Ann Hale, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hale of Jefferson, was selected for the board post from among the 33 Tar Heel high school students who participated in the National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington.

Shelia Ann Hale

The national youth board participates in various programs of the association and serves as an advisory group to the association regarding its youth activities.

Miss Hale was sponsored on the Youth Tour by Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir.

Elected as an alternate delegate from North Carolina was Lisa Truitt, who also represented Blue Ridge EMC on the tour. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Truitt of Sparta. In the event that Miss Hale cannot serve on the national board, Miss Truitt will take that post.

Meanwhile, Miss Truitt also represented the Tar Heel group in a Youth Tour Quiz Bowl competition in Washington.

The contest was part of Youth Day events sponsored by NRECA for youth groups from the various states participating in the tour program.

Youth Tour Draws Rave Reviews

Members of the Rural Electric Youth Tour/Class of '87 gave the trip top reviews in evaluations prepared after they returned home from the tour. Here's what several had to say:

"I will remember it as one of the best weeks of my life."

Mary Alicia Lyons
Whiteville

"You make a lot of close friends in seven days and you learn more in a week than you do in six months of school. It was wonderful!"

Shelia Ann Hale
Jefferson

"Socially, it was overwhelming—the friends I made in such a short time!"

Jenny Register
Rt. 1, White Oak

"One of the highlights of my high school years!"

Jessica Respess
Rt. 1, Pantego

"It was great! I wish it had lasted longer."

Tanya Kimble
Rt. 3, Littleton

"It was the best educational trip I've ever taken!"

Lisa Truitt
Sparta

"Very informative. I've never had a better week!"

Jamie Calloway
Rt. 1, Highlands

"I wish it could have lasted for the entire summer!"

Randall Duncan
Rt. 2, Statesville

"A great way to get young people interested in their government and their co-ops."

Kevin Brown
Tryon

"It was the best trip, socially and educationally, that I've ever participated in."

Rita Williams
Rt. 1, Murfreesboro

"It was one of the greatest experiences of my life! I feel like a new person."

Andre Kenan
Rt. 1, Teachey

GOD'S CREATURES

Lasers Replace Scalpels In 'State-of-the-Art' Surgery

The patient was from Pittsburgh and had come to Raleigh because of the availability of a "state of the art" surgical program featuring the use of operating room lasers in place of the conventional scalpel.

But this patient was not human.

The standard-bred horse was being treated at the North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM).

The horse suffered from a condition known as entrapped epiglottis, said Dr. Lloyd P. Tate Jr., assistant professor of large animal surgery at the SVM. A band of tissue was growing in the animal's throat, hindering its breathing.

Dr. Tate used a laser—a powerful, concentrated beam of light—to burn through, or "photovaporize," the troublesome tissue. The surgery was successful, and the horse was on its way back to Pittsburgh the day of the operation.

The case is illustrative of how the laser, in some cases, is a vast improvement over the scalpel. Had the horse undergone conventional surgery, Dr. Tate said, recuperation could have taken several months.

Rapid rehabilitation after medical care is important to the owners of large, valuable animals like horses. Providing the special care necessary for a large animal during a lengthy recovery is costly.

"The NCSU School of Veterinary Medicine is the only veterinary school in the country with major laser research and clinical treatment programs for animals."

But quick recuperation is just one of the advantages veterinarians see in the use of surgical lasers.

The SVM, a pioneer in the use of surgical lasers, is the only veterinary school in the country with major laser research and clinical treatment programs for animals, said Dr. H. Carlton Newman, coordinator of the school's laser program.

Surgical lasers provide pinpoint accuracy for cutting and damage less tissue than a conventional scalpel, Dr. Newman said. Lasers also control bleeding: a laser seals blood vessels as it cuts.

When used to remove tumors or infected tissue, lasers can reduce the spread of bacterial infection and malignancy by rendering nearby cells sterile, said Dr. Stephen W. Crane, head of the school's Department of Companion Animal and Special Species Medicine.

Laser surgery, which does not require an external incision, usually causes the patient less pain and swelling, Dr. Crane added.

Lasers have been used at the SVM to treat burns and infected wounds, to remove tumors and skin lesions, to operate on eyes, ears and throats, Dr. Crane said. Cats, dogs, cattle and horses have been treated with lasers.

Dr. Tate has found laser surgery particularly effective in treating tumors growing in the nasal and oral cavities in horses' heads. In time, such tumors can grow into the animal's throat and cause severe breathing difficulty.

Because of the location of these tumors, conventional surgery is usually impossible. In such cases, Dr. Tate said, the laser is more than an efficient new surgical tool—it is the only tool available.

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Should you encounter noncompliance with these standards, please inform the editor at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

At Blue Ridge EMC

Economic Development Efforts Endorsed By Co-op's Members

Consumer-members of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, have taken a stand in support of economic development and transportation improvements in the co-op's territory.

In resolutions adopted at the EMC's 1987 Annual Meeting in Ashe County, co-op members endorsed Blue Ridge's continued active involvement in economic development activities.

The statement also commended the EMC's board for its "leadership in area economic development" and urged it to continue its "efforts to develop a stronger economy for the area."

"There is compelling need for increased effort in economic development in the service area as evidenced by leading indicators such as unemployment and underemployment," the resolution said.

A second resolution noted that a "strong transportation network is needed to support economic development" and urged the state Department of Transportation to improve roads in the area. The resolution also endorsed the proposed widening of U.S. 421 to four lanes from Winston-Salem to the Tennessee border.

Meanwhile, EMC members re-elected four incumbent directors: Martha M. McKnight of Sparta; Thomas Cockerham of Jefferson; G. C. Norris of Rt. 2, Boone and James E. McNeil of Rt. 1, Ferguson.

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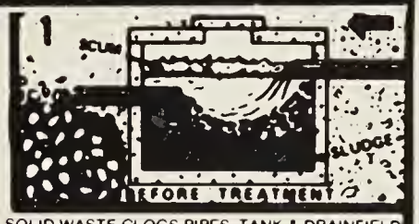

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Magazine: "Educational"

Recently, while I was in a doctor's office, I picked up a copy of *Carolina Country* from August, 1984. I had never seen the publication before. I read it cover-to-cover and found it interesting, well-written, diversified and entertaining—all while still being educational. I want to subscribe so I can share it with teachers and students at Green Valley School, where my sister teaches.

Margaret Goode Bishop
Boone

July Coverage of Cherokee Attractions: "Excellent"

Thank you for the excellent coverage you gave *Unto These Hills* and Oconaluftee Village in the July issue. We have already received a number of inquiries from the article, so know that it will be helpful to us.

Margie Douthit
Cherokee Historical Association
Cherokee

Story: "Wonderful"

Your Carolina Turkeys story (June) was wonderful!

William B. Privette
Rt. 2, LaGrange

Presidential Politics: "Let's Try Again In '88"

In response to the letter from T. S. Polk (April), I believe Mr. Polk is an example of the results of the conservative backlash that occurred seven years ago. But so is Ollie North, the Corporate Raiders of Wall Street and perhaps the mess at PTL.

Conservatism, in its various guises, has permeated every strata of American society with such obvious results that now we have young impressionable students spouting forth inane rhetoric. Such verbage is supposed to assure the American public that, thanks to Mr. Reagan, all is right with the world. It all sounds so safe, so sincere, so absolutely beyond reproach. Yet, Mr. Polk's letter seethed with semi-veiled contempt for anyone who dared to speak against the President and his domestic and foreign policies.

I ask Mr. Polk to read our nation's Constitution and learn all he can about our nation's government and its three branches. He will discover that besides the administrative that there are also the legislative and judicial. If Mr. Polk will then study the history of our country's struggle for independence from tyranny and governmental oppression, he will learn that there is a very good reason why the President is not the all-powerful leader he might like to be.

In the U.S., no President, no administration, no individual or group, is above criticism. And each and every person who is brave enough has the right to say anything he thinks about the way the government is being run or should be run and that right is not limited to the ballot box every few years. Mr. Polk and I have exercised that right. However, while doing so, Mr. Polk has called on this magazine to "print the news of interest to us with objectivity and fairness and support President Reagan." He asks that we express his opinion or else be called a purveyor of a "deadly dosage of liberal bias and prejudice."

I haven't even read the article that got Mr. Polk so heated up that he felt the need to drop-kick this publication in the mouth.

Before he concludes that I am just another wimpy Democratic leftie, I confess I voted for Mr. Reagan. Why? Because he said he would get the government out of my life.

I consider myself a moderate: somewhere between the People's Give Away Party and the Big Business "Let 'em Eat Cake" Party. I am tired of both the liberals and the conservatives.

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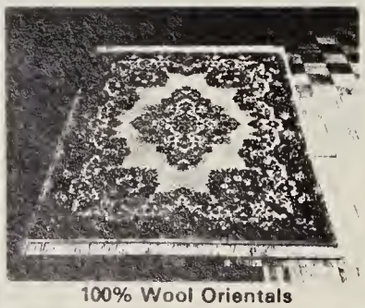
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Neither one speaks for me 100 percent of the time.

Just because I voted for Mr. Reagan does not mean I signed a blank check for his administration to starve the homeless or to spend billions of dollars on a piece of high-tech, pie-in-the-sky space junk. Besides, if either the U.S. or the USSR decide to "nuke," neither the Constitution or the Manifesto mean anything. Then, Mr. Polk can forget that "assets and loans portfolio" hype and he can try to remember when the grass was green and his pet poodle didn't glow in the dark.

Mr. Reagan is no better or worse than the rest of those boys who check in for a stay at the White House every so often. I'm sure he has done what he felt was best for the nation, but it just didn't work.

So let's do what we always do: let's try again in '88 and pray to God that young men like Mr. Polk won't have to die in some rotting "hell hole" at the edge of nowhere and that old men like myself don't have to bury them.

Ron Ennis
Morganton

Thanks For The "Fine Story" On Goodness Grows Program

I appreciate very much the fine story in *Carolina Country* magazine pertaining to the Goodness Grows in North Carolina program. With this type of cooperation and support, hopefully we will be able to accomplish our purpose. We thank you for this cooperation.

James A. Graham
Commissioner
N.C. Department of Agriculture
Raleigh

Thanks For Exhibit Announcement

We really appreciate your including the announcement of the North Carolina Artists Exhibition 1987 in the July issue. Since the artists in the exhibition live in a number of areas around the state, we feel sure that your readers will want to consider a visit here during its venue.

Sharon Broom
N.C. Museum of Art
Raleigh

The exhibit will be on view at the museum through September 6.

The Circuit Breaker: Can It Create Potential Fire Hazard?

The article in your May issue, "A Checklist To Help You Spot Potential Home Fire Hazards," is very helpful to all users of electricity. It shows the fuse form. However, some use the circuit breaker. Could you explain how these hazards apply to the circuit breaker system?

Mrs. W.I. Flory
Rt. 1, Crumpler

The following response to Mrs. Flory was prepared by Richard E. Raun, a professional engineer who serves as a transmission planning specialist in the power supply division of the statewide organization of electric cooperatives:

When a fuse blows, the homeowner removes the blown fuse and replaces it with another of the same type. But because the same type within a limited ampere range are identical in size, he might carelessly replace a 15 ampere fuse with a 20 ampere fuse. This would not protect the wiring from overheating during an overload condition. This is why there should be a circuit diagram or list showing the correct fuse size for each circuit.

When a circuit breaker trips, the homeowner simply moves the toggle switch on the face of the breaker all the way to the off position and then to the on position. If the overload condition is still present, the switch will not latch and will shift back to the off position. Since the circuit breakers are re-used and are not removed from the electrical panel, the homeowner does not have an opportunity to use the wrong size. That eliminates one potential hazard.

Circuit breaker ampere ratings are required to be visible without removing the breaker from the panel. Therefore, a separate listing of breaker ratings is not required. The correct size breaker for the circuit wire should have been installed by the electrician who wired the house. In addition, the county electrical inspector should have checked the electrician's work to be sure the electrician did his job properly.

Circuit breakers plus the inspection process have virtually eliminated home fires caused by overfusing circuits.

Whenever a homeowner experiences an electrical problem in the home, it would be helpful to try to determine the cause of the problem before calling an electrician. When a fuse blows or a breaker trips, ask yourself, "What new electrical appliance is being used along with other appliances?" Knowing what was happening where at the time the problem arose will be a big help in finding and correcting the problem.

You might try plugging one of your appliances into a different outlet. That could eliminate overload tripping of a breaker or the blowing of fuses.

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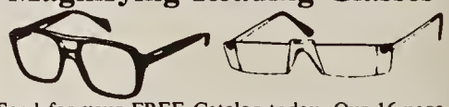

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To Speed Information Flow

Computer Network Links Extension Offices

The North Carolina Agricultural Extension service has installed a new computerized communication system that extension workers say will help them provide faster information for the people of the state.

"In today's farm and business world, the fastest information is the most useful," State Extension Director Chester D. Black said of the electronic mail (E-Mail) system.

The system ties together extension offices at North Carolina State University, A. & T. State University and four agricultural research stations with extension offices in 83 counties and on the Cherokee Reservation. Offices in the state's other 17 counties will join the system over the next few weeks.

Among the types of regular information that will go on the system immediately will be twice-daily agricultural weather forecasts, pest alert messages and weather crop reports of the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

A big advantage of the system, Dr. Black explained, is the speed with which it permits our county extension agents to get information for farmers and other citizens from extension specialists at NCSU. They can query the specialists and have the information in minutes rather than days, he said.

County offices tap the system via modem and telephone. State offices are wired directly into the mini-computer at NCSU that drives the system.

Black said equipment for the system costs about $390,000, the bulk of which was spent on a computer for each county extension office. About $100,000 has also been spent on personnel to get the system in operation.

The Extension Service unveiled its E-Mail system at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at NCSU.

Among the people recognized at the ceremony were Dr. Edward Mrozek Jr., extension computer services supervisor; Senator Harold Hardison (D-Lenoir), who helped to get a $160,000 legislative appropriation for the system; and Richard C. Reich, senior agricultural coordinator for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which contributed $97,600 to buy the base computer.

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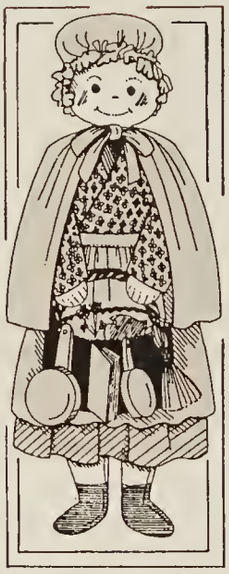

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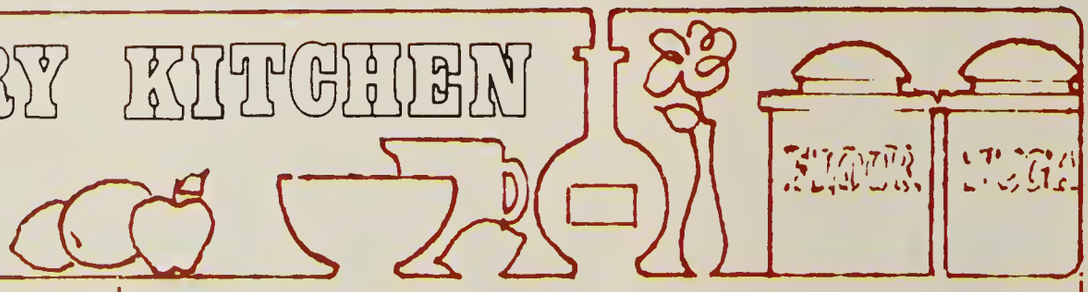
4170: Misses Sizes 10 to 20. The easiest dress to sew. No waist seam and no zipper. It glides over your head, has self or purchased belt.

4172: Misses Sizes S (8-10), M (12-14), L (16-18), XL (20-22) included. An easy three-piece outfit. Jacket has one pattern piece.

6023: So easy to crochet. Vest in two colors works up very quickly. Use baby/sport yarn. Instructions for Sizes 10-20 included.

Send $3.25 for each pattern to: *Carolina Country*, Reader Mail, Dept. 8681, Box 58, Woodside, N.Y. 11377, Add 75¢ each for postage and handling. Be sure to use your full address, zip code and include pattern number and size.

COUNTRY KITCHEN



Want To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611.

We pay $5 for published recipes and present each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards featuring a reprint of the published recipe.

Fresh Peach Pound Cake

Submitted by Mrs. Flora Tingen, Roxboro

1½ C. cooking oil
2 C. sugar
3 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla
3 C. self-rising flour
3 C. peaches (peeled and diced)
1 C. chopped nuts
1 C. coconut

Frosting:
1 pkg. cream cheese (3 oz.)
6 tsp. peach juice puree from one fresh peach in blender
1½ C. confectionary sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together in order listed. Pour into lightly greased and floured bundt pan and bake for one hour. Remove from oven. Let stand in pan for 10 minutes, then place on cooling rack. Cool completely. Mix frosting ingredients together and spoon over top of cake.

DO YOUR OWN THING

Silk Roses

Silk roses combined with colorful ribbon can add a charming decorative touch to almost anything. You can add such touches to your home by making beautiful displays and decorations such as the ones pictured. It's easy with a little know-how and a few helpful hints!

This 16-page guidebook provides step-by-step directions, photos and complete materials lists for making 28 ribbon rose projects.

The Rose 'n Lace Heart wreath is made with an 8″ heart-shaped gathering ring, teal colored fabric, ecru cotton cluny lace, peach picot lace, satin ribbon, peach ribbon for the roses, a sprig of German status, white thread and white tacky glue.

You begin the project by making three roses from 1/2″ ribbon, then stitch the fabric into ruffles and slip it on the ring. The picot ribbon is used to make the bow while the satin ribbon is made into loops topped off by the sprig.

The techniques learned in making the wreath can help you decorate baskets, baby clothes, gift boxes, holiday ornaments and much more!

To obtain RIBBONS & ROSES, #DG202, send $5.25, including postage and prompt handling.

For a variety of handicraft projects, you may be interested in our HANDICRAFT GRAB BAG #C18 (six different guidebooks NOT including #DG202), $8.50. Send your check to **Lois Goodson c/o Carolina Country, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409-2383.**

U-BUILD PROJECTS

Scooter/Skateboard Set

This nifty scooter and skateboard set are easy to make in your home workshop. The outdoor children's toys are sturdily designed for years of rugged use.

Our plan guides you step-by-step in building these projects from 3/4″ maple stock with detailed instructions, photos and full-size traceable patterns.

The scooter measures 41″ long by 32″ high and uses two 10″ diameter wheels mounted on carriage bolts. The handle is built double thick to be extra strong and two 3½″ hinges insure ease of turning. The footboard is made 4″ wide and employs a 12½″ long strip of anti-skid tape to prevent slipping.

The skateboard is 28″ long by 10″ wide. Shown here is a professionally-styled dish-shaped model, but an option is provided for making a flat skateboard.

All you do is trace the full-size pattern onto wood and cut according to the instructions. One pair of 8″ skateboard trucks and a set of paired wheels are needed along with an 8″ x 24″ piece of anti-skid tape to finish the project.

To obtain SCOOTER & SKATEBOARD, Pattern #796, send $4.50, including postage and prompt handling. Send your check or money order to **Steve Ellingson c/o Carolina Country, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409-2383.**

Set For Sept. 12

Enfield Festival To Salute The Peanut

Nearly 40 years have passed since Enfield residents gathered to pay homage to the lowly "goober," which is a major element in the community's economic base.

Now, the folks around Enfield will once again salute the peanut—this time with a community-wide celebration sponsored by the Enfield Chamber of Commerce.

The first Enfield Peanut Festival is scheduled for Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Back in 1948, the goober was the center of attention at the first Goober Bowl in Enfield, a Thanksgiving Day gridiron clash that attracted a crowd of 3,000. (See box for details.)

This year's celebration will include arts and crafts displays, demonstrations, food concessions and a variety of entertainment.

The entertainment will include performances by the Band of Oz, a beach music band, and Runner, a country/western group.

Children will be treated to music and storytelling from Susie Crate and juggling by Simcha Weinstein.

Other entertainment will include the Bobbi Collins Dancers, the Mary Alice Leggett School of Dance, the Enfield Baptist Church Handbells, clowns, gymnists, puppets and more.

A total of 12 volunteer committees have been established to coordinate planning for the festival, which is expected to become an annual event. One committee solicited favorite recipes using peanuts or peanut products and assembled a cookbook that will be on sale during the festival.

Plans are also in the making to display historical equipment that was once used to cultivate or harvest peanuts.

Whitefield and Railroad streets in Enfield will be closed to serve as the site of the festival.

A Pigskin Classic: The Goober Bowl

High school football teams from Enfield and Scotland Neck squared off before about 3,000 specatators in Enfield at the first Goober Bowl on Thanksgiving Day, 1948.

The event was sponsored by Enfield's Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Scotland Neck won the game, by a score of 11-0—giving Enfield its first loss of the season.

An even larger crowd turned out for the second bowl the following year, when the festivities included the crowning of the first Goober Bowl Queen. She reigned over a parade and the game itself.

Enfield lost again, this time to Tarboro.

The bowl continued as an annual event in Halifax County through 1953. That year, the final game in the series featured the N.C. State University Freshmen Wolfpack against a team from Chowan College. It was the first of the bowls to involve college teams.

The Wolfpack downed the undefeated Chowan squad by a score of 38-0.

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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

It's the good ol' summertime—time to:

- Choose the cooler hours of early morning and late afternoon for tending gardening chores.
- Prepare the fall garden.
- Take a few days off and, if you're lucky, get away from home for a while.

If you are fortunate enough to take a trip, don't forget to line up someone to do the necessary watering and lawn-mowing while you're away.

Pansy Seeds

To have plants ready to bloom by late fall, plant seed of pansies now. It helps to place the seed in the refrigerator for a week or ten days before sowing.

Pansies will bloom during mild periods of winter. They make their heavy crop of flowers in early spring before the weather gets hot.

Pansies now are available in separate colors—making it easy to work out a color scheme in the flower bed.

Dig and Divide

Now's the ideal time to lift, divide and transplant Madonna lilies, peonies and Oriental poppies.

After digging, let poppies stay in the sun a couple of hours before dividing. Reset just below the soil line. If you want more poppies, make root cuttings. Cuttings should be one- to two-inches long. Lay them flat in a box or pot of sandy soil. Cover roots about one-half inch deep. Place in a frost-free spot. Water about once a week. New plants should sprout early next spring.

When replanting Madonna lilies, place them about two inches beneath the soil line.

Zinnias Like Hot Weather

Zinnias, native to Mexico, are one of the most popular of all garden annuals for summer blooms. Plants range in size from dwarf varieties (about six inches tall) to high plants that reach three feet. Blooms range in size from one to seven inches in diameter. This popular cut flower ranges through almost all colors except blue. The heat-loving zinnia is quick to grow. Seed sown in warm soil usually germinate in three days. Plants begin flowering within eight weeks and continue to bloom until frost.

Now's the time to plant some zinnias to supplement the autumn color of mums and dahlias.

"Everlastings" for Winter

Statice, cockscomb, strawflowers, globe amaranth and other flowers which are to be dried for winter bouquets should be cut at this time.

Tie them in bundles, place in large paper bags and hang them in a dry place to "cure."

Asparagus

Fertilize asparagus plants so roots and crowns can store food for next year's crop.

Apply three pounds of a complete fertilizer such as 8-8-8 to each 100 square feet of soil surface.

Check Grape Vines

Yellowing between the veins of older leaves of grape vines usually indicates that the vines are in need of magnesium.

Young plants need about two ounces of magnesium sulfate, watered in well. Use four ounces for older vines. Many growers have success in using Epsom salts as a source of magnesium.

A deficiency of magnesium can reduce growth and yield.

Vegetables

A small well-tended garden plot can produce fresh vegetables until the first killing frost. You'll want to check out the average date of the first killing frost in your area, then decide what and when to plant.

This list will help you in planning:

Approximate time from planting to maturity

Vegetable	Days
Broccoli	70
Mustard Greens	40
Collards	60
Turnip Greens	40
Kale	55
Onions	90
Radishes	30
Cabbage	70
Carrots	75
Beets	60

Chores To Tend To Now:

- Cut day lily tops back halfway to roots after digging and dividing clumps. Leave one shoot to each section. Replant only healthy roots.
- Soak soil deeply around all shrubs and trees set out last spring. Check daily to see that they don't wilt. Spray foliage with water to control spider mites.
- Cease pinching-back mums. Let them grow freely until they flower.
- Give azaleas final feeding of season.
- Pull up and burn any diseased glads, lilies, China asters and dahlias.

—Hank Smith

September 11

Candidates Forum Slated For Dean Smith Center

Both Democratic and Republican presidential candidates will discuss national education issues during a forum at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Sept. 11.

Fourteen potential contenders have been invited to participate in "Education '88: A Presidential Candidates Forum," sponsored by the 16-campus University of North Carolina and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Gov. James G. Martin, who contacted Republican candidates, has received acceptances from Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY), and Delaware Gov. Pierre Du Pont, and positive reaction from all other Republican candidates. Former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., who contacted the Democratic candidates, has received acceptances from former Gov. Bruce Babbitt of Arizona, Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts, Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri, Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois.

The free, public forum, to be held in two sessions (one for the Democrats and one for the Republicans) at the Dean E. Smith Center, will be televised live in North Carolina by the UNC Center for Public Television and made available for rebroadcast by public television stations nationwide.

For more information, write or call Wyndham Robertson, UNC General Administration, P.O. Box 2688, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. Phone: (919) 962-1000.

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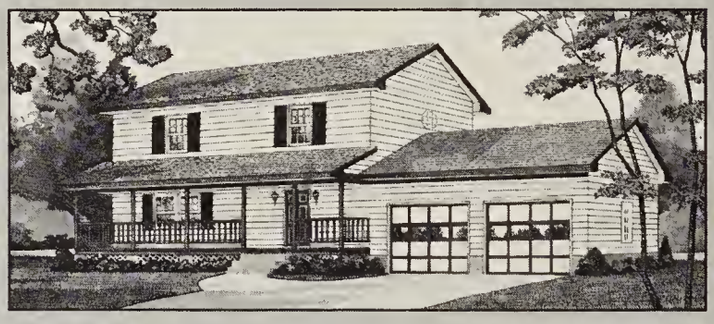

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"Turn-offs" That Can Save You Money

Turning off lights that aren't in use is a traditional symbol for economy in the home.

But there are other things you can also turn off to save money.

Reprinted From *Texas Co-op Power*

One is the anti-sweat heater in the refrigerator. This heater keeps moisture from appearing on the sides of the appliance. On large refrigerators, this can add nearly $10 to the annual electric bill.

These heaters can be regulated with a switch inside the refrigerator compartment. The switch may have settings that say "dry/humid." Or the switch may be labeled "power miser" or "energy-saver."

If your switch says "dry/humid," make sure it is set on "dry." If it says "power miser" or "energy-saver," turn the switch *on* to turn the heaters *off*.

The heaters are unnecessary, except in humid climates where a house is not air conditioned. If moisture ever does appear on the refrigerator, you can turn on the heaters for short intervals and turn them off again when the humid weather is over.

Other good turn-offs are:

- Pilot lights on gas furnaces during the non-winter months, which can save another $10 a year.
- If you have a second refrigerator and use it only to store marginal items, unplug it for a savings of $20 to $40 a year.
- Turn off your central air conditioner when the house is to be unoccupied four hours or longer.
- Turn off a room air conditioner for an absence of one hour or more.
- Turn off your water heater before you leave the house for a weekend or longer.

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Give Home Energy Use A Vacation

You might want to try these turn-offs to reduce your home's power use while you're away on vacation:

- Clean out your refrigerator, prop the door open, then unplug it.
- Turn off the power to your water heater.
- Make sure all appliances—especially quick-start features, such as those on TVs—are off.
- Turn off all lights—except those needed for security—and put these on timers set for nighttime hours only.

In short, look for ways that can safely give your home's energy use—and bills—a vacation, too.

EMC ANNUAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
August			
22	Roanoke, Rich Square	Registration: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 1:00 p.m.	Arena at Co-op Headquarters
27	Pee Dee, Wadesboro	Registration: 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Anson Sr. High School Stadium, Wadesboro
29	Haywood, Waynesville	Registration: 8:30 a.m. Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.	Tuscola High School, Near Waynesville
September			
19	Albemarle, Hertford	Registration: 12:00 Noon Business Meeting: 2:00 p.m.	Perquimans County High School

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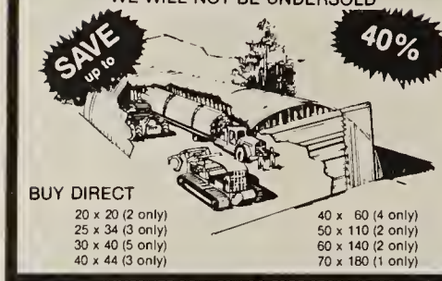

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YES, ROOF-HIGH IN JUST ONE YEAR!

and keeps on skyrocketing 30-40-50 EVEN UP TO 60 FEET HIGH OR MORE in less time than most trees nudge themselves a few feet off the ground.

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The Plymouth Connection: Shades Of "Twilight Zone"

"I wonder what the odds are for something like this happening," said Gene Waters, shaking his head in disbelief.

He was echoing my own sense of amazement as we discussed a coincidence involving the two of us and one of the newest employees at the statewide organization of electric co-ops.

All three of us grew up in Plymouth, a small town in Washington County.

We just couldn't believe that three fellows' totally unrelated careers would eventually take them from the banks of the Roanoke River to the third floor of the statewide organization's Raleigh headquarters.

Gene and I did some head-shaking of this sort when he joined the organization's Finance and Accounting Division in 1980, making the Plymouth contingent a total of two. I'd known Gene as a contemporary of my older sister, but had heard nothing of him for years until he was introduced as a new employee.

Then, a few months ago, Finance and Accounting hired Brian Williams as a programming analyst. He came to us from Planters National Bank in Rocky Mount.

We'd heard that Brian was a native of Williamston, but we later learned that he and his family moved to Plymouth when he was a boy.

As he and I reminisced about the old hometown, I thought I might have entered some sort of Plymouth connection "twilight zone."

Brian said his family's first home in Plymouth was next door to the Woolard family. Brian and I had lived on *the same street*—but at different times.

His home was next door to the Winesett Circle house I called home for 10 years! My family had sold it to the Woolards.

What would the statisticians make of the odds on that?

But there's even more to this Plymouth connection:

- When I joined *Carolina Country* in 1973, I succeeded Edward E. Brown Jr., who is now manager of Four County Electric Membership, Burgaw. He had Plymouth ties but lived across the county line in Martin County, near Jamesville. In fact, I had known him when I was in my teens. He was a cousin of a close friend of mine.
- Soon after I began work with the magazine, I met Frank Jeter Jr., who was then a public information officer with the Soil Conservation Service in Raleigh. He has since retired from that job and has been working with us ever since as a part-time ad salesman and free-lance writer/photographer.

Frank's late brother, Vernon, had been my family's doctor in Plymouth.

Now, Will The *Real* Raun Family Please Stand Up

When the word about the Plymouth connection spread among our fellow employees, Richard E. (Dick) Raun, an engineer in our Power Supply Division, told us about a couple of eerie coincidences he'd been involved in.

- When Dick and his wife Karen lived in Minnesota, they often went square-dancing with friends named Maynard and Doris Raun.

Here's the "program" Dick came up with to help us keep up with the players in an intriguing "name game: "

"Maynard's wife Doris Raun is not my sister Doris Raun. Maynard's son Richard Raun is not me. Maynard's nephew, Lyle Raun, is not my cousin, Lyle Raun. Maynard's niece Karen Raun is not my wife Karen Raun. Also, Maynard's grandfather Marcus Raun did not come from Marcus, IA, where my grandfather lived for several years."

The only common tie Dick and Maynard were able to establish between the two families was a town in Denmark. Both had ancestors who lived in Schliswig-Holstein, Denmark.

Dick said the two couples were such good friends, they decided not to do the research necessary to find out if they were actually related.

"We didn't want to take a chance on messing up the friendship!"

- Dick and Karen were in an antique store while on vacation up North when Dick noticed a piece of mail addressed to "Richard Raun." He inquired about it and learned that this Richard Raun and wife were owners of the shop. Dick pulled out his driver's license to show that he, too, was a Richard Raun. Both couples exchanged comments about what a "small world" it is. Then, Dick and Karen looked around the shop a bit more and left, taking a copy of the store's promotional brochure.

As they traveled on, Karen read through the brochure, which listed the owners on the back page: "Richard and Karen Raun." Dick quickly turned around and returned to the store, where his Karen presented her driver's license to "the other Karen."

—Owen Bishop

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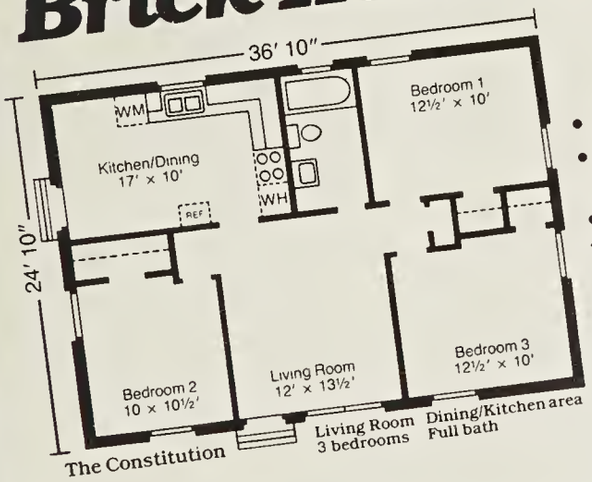

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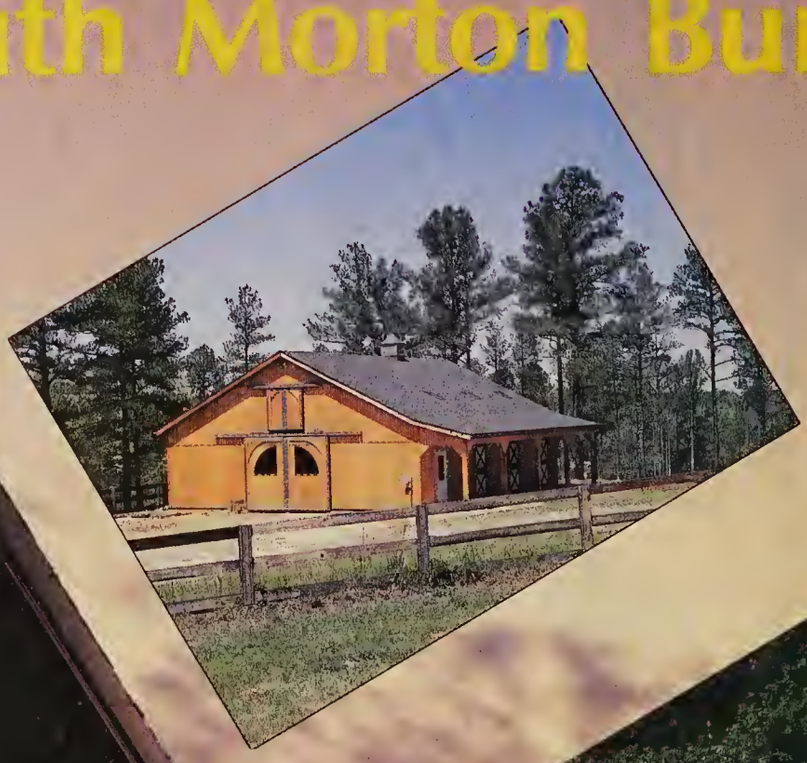

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